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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

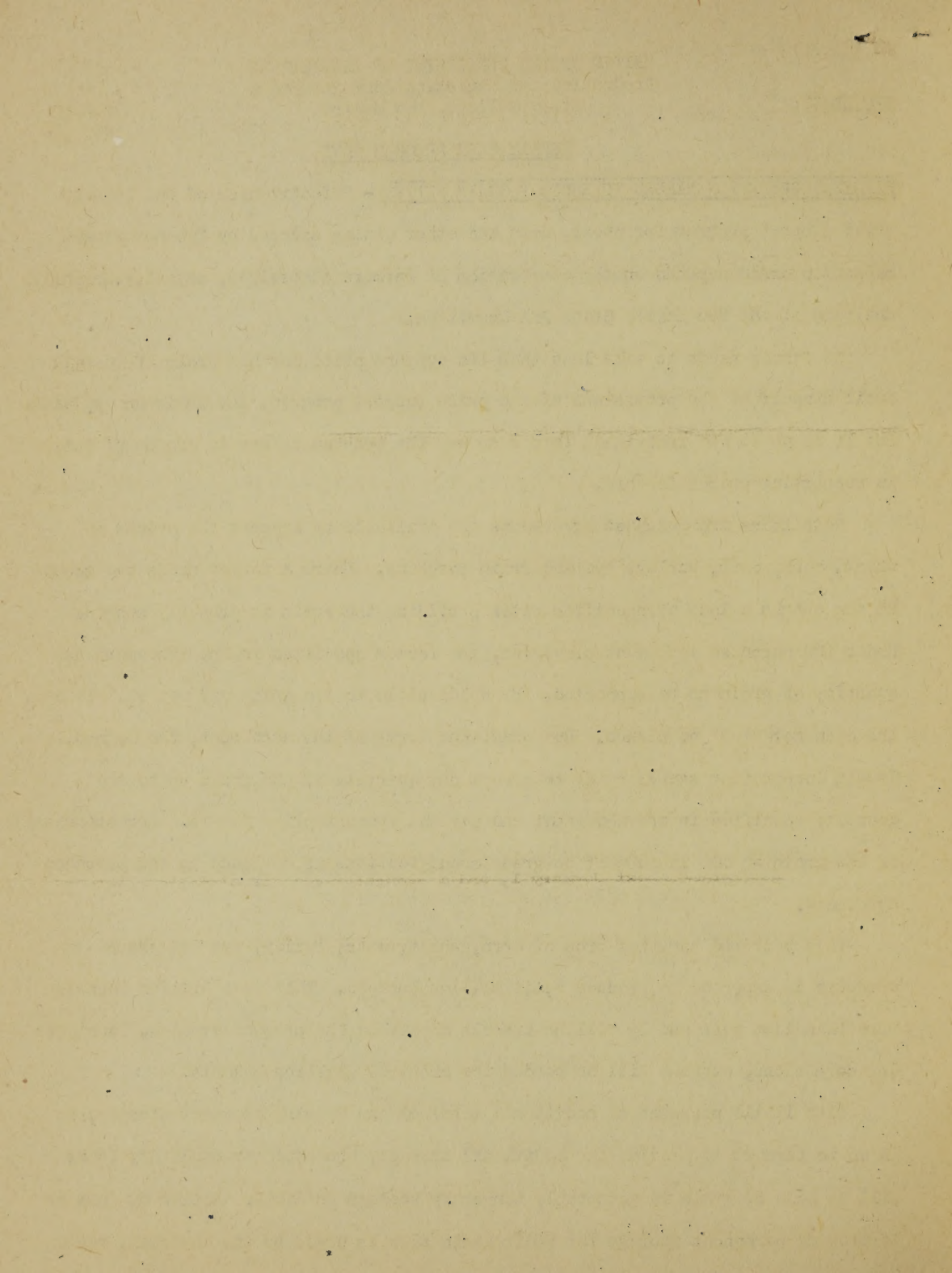
FARMER COOPERATION NEEDED TO SUPPORT GRAIN PRICES - Effectiveness of the 1948-49 price support program for wheat, corn and other grains covered by the Government support program depends on the cooperation of farmers themselves, says C.V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee.

No farmer needs to take less than the support price for his grain if he will avail himself of the provisions of the price support program, the chairman explains. But it is up to the individual farmer to use the program before it can be effective in supporting prices for him.

Both loans and purchase agreements are available to support the prices of wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums. Where a farmer needs the money, he can obtain a loan at specified rates providing the grain is properly stored. Under the purchase agreement provision, the farmer specifies in the agreement the quantity of grain to be supported. He holds title to the grain and may sell it on the open market if he wishes. But under the terms of the agreement, the Commodity Credit Corporation stands ready to accept any quantity of the grain up to the quantity specified in the agreement and pay the support price for it. Acceptance of the grain by CCC is subject to grade specifications as outlined in the purchase agreement.

This year the combined crop of corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums is expected to produce 6,444 million bushels. That is a billion bushels more than last year and $1\frac{1}{2}$ billion bushels more than the pre-war average. Considering corn alone, storage will be needed for about 600 million bushels.

With little prospect of additional terminal and country elevator storage, it is up to farmers to provide the additional storage, the chairman explains. Loans will be made on grain in acceptable temporary storage on farms. Action by farmers to provide permanent storage for their grain also is urged by the chairman, since



grain stored on farms is a stabilizing factor in supporting prices. More farm storage means that farmers will be able to spread marketing over the year instead of overtaxing marketing facilities at harvest time.

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FIRST 1949 FARM GOALS RECOMMENDED - State USDA Councils will soon begin consideration of the first national goals suggested as guides for 1949 farm production. Highlights for conservation-minded farmers are the slightly reduced wheat acreage goal which, at recent yields, would still produce more than a billion bushels, and larger goals for most kinds of winter cover crop seeds.

Other goals suggested at this time are for rye, beef cattle, winter vegetables, and dry edible peas.

Here are national recommendations for State consideration and possible adjustment:

Wheat, 71.5 million planted acres, about 8 percent less than estimates of this year's seeded acreage, but about the same as the expected 1948 actual harvest;

Winter cover crops, substantial increases in production of all kinds except ryegrass;

Rye, 2.5 million harvested acres, about 313,000 acres more than this year's indicated acreage;

Beef cattle, a breeding herd goal of 15.5 million head of beef cows on farms and ranches next January 1, and a slaughter goal of 32 million head of all cattle and calves for the year July 1948-June 1949;

Winter vegetables, 281,750 acres for 15 crops, which at average yields would produce about the same as in 1948;

Dry edible peas, 350,000 acres, of which 225,000 acres would be in smooth peas.

The wheat goal seeks to bring about adjustments in areas of relatively low productivity and where shifts in land use for better conservation are desirable. With an average yield of about 15 bushels an acre, which is the 1938-47 average, production in 1949 would total 1.1 billion bushels. The 1948 production is expected to total 1.2 billion bushels.

The wheat goal will permit farmers to provide for more summer fallow and, in marginal areas, to begin reseeding to grass land which is not suited for sustained production of crops. Other considerations in suggesting the wheat goal were this year's increased carry-over, prospects that the 1948 crop will be the second largest in history, and the possibility of smaller foreign demands because of improved crops in many importing countries.

Increased production of winter cover crop seeds is badly needed to restore the fertility of heavily cropped soil and to meet export demands, only partially filled in recent years. Stocks of all the seeds except ryegrass are at very low levels, and the 1948 crops are not expected to provide adequately for domestic requirements and exports.

Achieving the beef cattle breeding herd goal would result in a moderate decrease of about 500,000 million head below the number on farms January 1 of this year. Better management, improved feeding practices, and careful culling are urged to put the industry in better position to supply the meat requirements of an increasing population.

The slaughter goal is about 7 percent less than the number of animals slaughtered in each of the last two similar 12-month periods, but feeding to heavier weights may offset this to some extent. The goal is in line with the breeding herd goal and would provide larger amounts of beef and veal than would be available if cattle numbers were held at present levels or increased. Meat demands are expected to continue abnormally strong.

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CRAWLEY HEADS PMA PRODUCTION, CONSERVATION PROGRAMS - William B. Crawley, Chairman of the Alabama PMA Committee, has been appointed to succeed the late Dave Davidson as Assistant Administrator for Production, PMA. Mr. Crawley will also serve as Acting Director of PMA's Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch.

Born in Alabama in 1893, Mr. Crawley has been actively engaged in farming all his life. He still owns and operates land which was farmed by his father, producing

The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country, and to a description of the principal features of the landscape. The second part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the climate, and to a description of the principal features of the soil. The third part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the vegetation, and to a description of the principal features of the fauna.

The fourth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human population, and to a description of the principal features of the human economy. The fifth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human culture, and to a description of the principal features of the human religion. The sixth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human art, and to a description of the principal features of the human science.

The seventh part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human history, and to a description of the principal features of the human geography. The eighth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human politics, and to a description of the principal features of the human law. The ninth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human philosophy, and to a description of the principal features of the human religion.

The tenth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human art, and to a description of the principal features of the human science. The eleventh part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human history, and to a description of the principal features of the human geography. The twelfth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human politics, and to a description of the principal features of the human law.

The thirteenth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human philosophy, and to a description of the principal features of the human religion. The fourteenth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human art, and to a description of the principal features of the human science. The fifteenth part is devoted to a description of the principal features of the human history, and to a description of the principal features of the human geography.

livestock, cotton, peanuts, corn, and other crops.

Mr. Crawley first entered public service in 1933 as an AAA community committeeman in Pike County. He was appointed to the Alabama AAA State Committee in 1935, and has served as Chairman since 1938.

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CONSERVATION AIDS SPORTSMEN - Every sportsman has an interest in the Agricultural Conservation Program, says C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the State PMA Committee. The program means protection to fish and wildlife as well as the soil.

Terraces, contour fields, and grassed hillsides check run-off in heavy rains. Much water soaks into the ground instead of running off carrying soil into the streams. This helps protect streams where fish are spawning. Streams run clearer and fish are not destroyed by muddy water and eggs are not covered with silt.

Then, too, the chairman points out, the water held back by protective grass and legume cover, terraces, contour furrows, dams and dikes, provides water for springs and streams later in the season.

On the other hand, wasted farm land that has been stripped of its topsoil and cut to pieces with gullies offers little in the way of food and protection to wildlife. It is about the same as a burned over forest area.

In the interests of good hunting and fishing, the Sportsman can help himself by encouraging the conservation practices included in the ACP program, the chairman explains. State and county agricultural conservation committees are in increasing demand to explain the program to interested sportsmen. Many ACP officers are called upon to furnish speakers at meetings of sportsmen. This, says the chairman, is encouraging evidence of a growing realization that the Agricultural Conservation Program goes hand in hand with good wildlife conservation.

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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

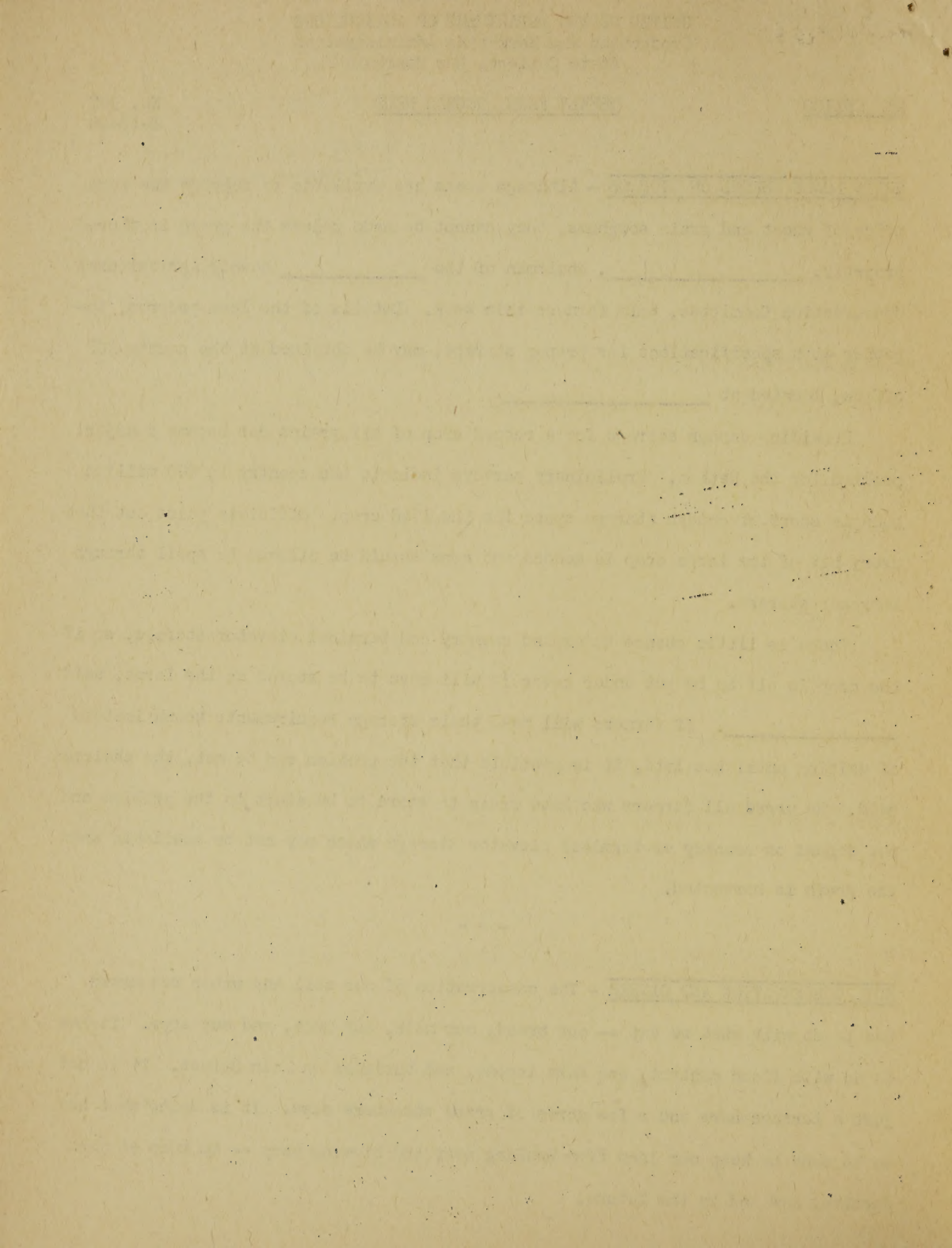
GRAIN LOANS DEPEND ON STORAGE -- Although loans are available to support the farm price of wheat and grain sorghums, they cannot be made unless the grain is stored properly, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, told farmers this week. Details of the loan program, together with specifications for proper storage, may be obtained at the county ACP office, located at _____.

Providing enough storage for a record crop of all grains has become a major problem for the Nation. Preliminary surveys indicate the country is 800 million bushels short of enough storage space for the 1948 crop. Officials point out that every bit of the large crop is needed and none should be allowed to spoil through improper storage.

There is little chance to expand country and terminal elevator storage, so if the crop is all to be put under cover it will have to be stored on the farms, said _____. If farmers will make their storage requirements known instead of waiting until too late, it is possible that the problem can be met, the chairman said. He urged all farmers who have grain to store to be alert to the problem and not depend on country or terminal elevator storage which may not be available when the grain is harvested.

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SOIL CONSERVATION AND DINNER -- The conservation of our soil and water resources has to do with what we eat -- our bread, our milk, our meat, and our eggs. It has to do with flood control, and farm income, and business on Main Street. It is not just a terrace here and a few acres of grass somewhere else. It is doing what has to be done to keep our land from washing away and blowing away -- to keep it productive, now and in the future.



In this way, C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico PMA Committee, summarized the purpose and objectives of the Agricultural Conservation Program as well as the entire conservation effort of the United States Department of Agriculture.

He called attention to the Department's conservation program in the Missouri River Basin as an example of the tremendous conservation job that must be done and of how various programs can contribute toward reaching a common objective.

Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently announced a long-range multiple-purpose agricultural program for the Missouri River Basin to support the "Pick-Sloan-Plan". This program is to include the work of the Forest Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Production and Marketing Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Farm Credit Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, Agricultural Research Administration and the Extension Service.

Included in the program are plans for conservation on individual farms to fit into the whole pattern of controlling erosion and floods. Some of the land most subject to erosion hazards will be seeded to permanent grass or trees. Another part of the program will be to construct terraces and farm on the contour. Dams back on rangeland and on farms will support the larger dams on the river. All of these conservation practices and others will help meet the over-all conservation problem in the Missouri River Basin.

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BUILDING SUPPLIES SITUATION SPOTTED - Faced with an urgent need to construct additional farm storage for this year's bumper crop, U. S. farmers -- especially those in the Corn Belt -- will ask first, "How about the building-supplies situation?"

The following analysis on general availability of building materials may help farmers plan the type of storage they want to construct:

Lumber -- 1948 production will probably not exceed the high levels of 1947;

for the first 4 months of 1948, total production was almost 1

percent below that for the same period of 1947. Retail lumber stocks both for the North Central States and for the U. S. as a whole are substantially higher than in 1946, when the low point was reached, but U. S. stocks are still 1.5 billion feet short of the December 1941 high point.

Aluminum sheets — Expected to continue short in relation to demand.

Galvanized sheet and corrugated roofing and siding — 1948 production not expected to greatly exceed 1947.

Nails -- Production is at an all-time high, but housing and general construction requirements are large. Not much increase over present rate of production is likely. However, reports indicate only 4 out of 14 market areas in the Corn Belt are short of nails.

Woven wire fabric, cut in 50-ft. lengths, especially for temporary corn cribs, is being offered to Corn Belt dealers, many of whom have carried this material over from last year. However, orders for requirements should be placed immediately.

Prefabricated corn cribs, steel — Indications are that none of these prefabricated corn cribs have been manufactured since 1941.

Roofing -- Ample supplies of asphalt shingles and roll roofing. Supplies of wood shingles are plentiful.

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ALFALFA SEED PRICE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED - Alfalfa seed prices will be supported again this year at the same levels as last year, says an announcement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Supports are 25 cents a pound for northern alfalfa, 20 cents for central, and 17 cents for southern. New Mexico is included in the southern group.

The support program will be carried out by the Commodity Credit Corporation through both loans and purchase agreements. Either or both of these programs will be available to farmers from the time of harvest through December 31. The loans will mature May 31, 1949, or earlier on demand. The purchase agreements will provide that the CCC will buy at support prices whatever quantity of eligible alfalfa seed a producer may elect to deliver to the Corporation during the 30-day period following the maturity of the 1948 loan.

These programs will be administered locally by county agricultural conservation committees.

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DISTRICT MEETINGS - "As the prices for farm commodities decline and mounting surpluses pile up, farmers generally are turning to CCC loans for price support," said _____, Chairman of the _____ County ACA Committee.

In order that all county and community committeemen may be informed of the provisions of the support programs, the State Committee has called a series of district meetings to be held in New Mexico. During these meetings discussions will be held in order that county and, particularly, community committeemen can learn the fundamentals of the support programs. "It is important that all community committeemen attend these meetings in order that they may carry the word to the farmers in their respective communities," Mr. _____ said.

We expect to develop a program for 1949 that will stress the importance of conserving the soil rather than all-out production as was the case during the war and the last three years. The meeting to which county and community committeemen in _____ county will attend is being held in _____ on _____.

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FARMERS URGED TO PROTECT CROPS, STORAGE - Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan has repeated his appeal to farmers to protect their grain supplies through proper farm storage, and to make possible more orderly marketing of the current crops through taking advantage of Government loan and purchase agreement programs.

In calling for increased farm storage of this year's abundant crops, the Secretary said that without such increased facilities, farmers may have to sell their crops immediately, even if prices are below the support level and even if such current sales help to jam the already overflowing market channels.

As a means of solving the problem, Secretary Brannan reminded farmers that CCC loans and purchase agreements are available to all producers of grain on all the qualified grain offered.

"The loans cannot be granted, however, unless proper storage is assured," he pointed out, "and the purchase agreements lose much of their effectiveness as price protection if unsatisfactory storage causes deterioration of the grain The fact that this year's grain crop is the most expensive ever produced, from the standpoint of farmers' production costs, emphasizes the need for producers to protect their investment in the grain. . . .

"Grain bins now owned by the CCC have a storage capacity of only about 50 million bushels, as contrasted with a capacity of more than 300 million bushels during the war.....With commercial facilities overloaded, the answer must lie in expanded farm storage.

"I am, therefore, again urging all grain farmers and all agencies of the Department to continue their cooperative efforts to make the fullest possible use of present farm storage, and to construct additional storage facilities as needed."

Referring to an apparent misunderstanding about the price levels at which the Department of Agriculture buys grain for supply programs, such as for shipment under the European Recovery Program, Secretary Brannan explained that such purchases are made at the prevailing market price in accordance with legislative provisions. Unlike CCC loans and purchase agreements, such purchases do not provide farmers with direct price protection at the support level.

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ARE YOUR ACRES GETTING SMALLER? - Some acres are only half as big as they were 20 years ago, says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee. Naturally they each have 160 square rods but square rods do not

show the most important dimension of all -- the depth, or thickness. Acres shrink down, not from the sides.

Mr. _____ points out that much has been said about there being only $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of cropland per person in the United States. It's the thickness of the topsoil not the area that determines how much can be produced. An acre that once had 10 inches of topsoil and which now has only 4 or 5 inches is only about half as big as it was. Two and a half acres of land with only 3 inches of topsoil may mean want where the same acreage with 18 inches of topsoil may mean a good living.

As the chairman put it: "The thing to get alarmed over is not so much the fact that as population increases there will be fewer and fewer acres per person but that the fewer and fewer acres are getting smaller and smaller -- shrinking down -- getting thinner.

"Every inch of topsoil washed off or blown away means the Nation is just that much nearer the unproductive subsoil. It has been estimated that when the Pilgrims started farming in this country, there were some 9 inches of topsoil -- average for the country. Now the acres have shrunk down until there are only about 6 inches of topsoil. There are still as many acres but they are not as thick. And when all the topsoil is gone the 160 square rods may mean a barren waste -- just an acre of nothing as far as food production is concerned."

The Agricultural Conservation Program is concerned with keeping our acres from shrinking down. Its job is to help farmers maintain the "Thickness of their acres."

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A GOOD TIME TO START EROSION CONTROL - The place to start controlling erosion is where the erosion begins and fall and winter is often a good time to start, says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee. Too often control measures are started after a lot of the damage has been

done. As the chairman states, "We shouldn't have to wait until fields are cut up with gullies before we do something about trying to stop erosion on our farms."

If muddy water is running off the farm, erosion is taking place. The first step is to determine where it is coming from and then to determine what steps should be taken to keep the land from getting away. Hillsides planted to row crops and natural waterways plowed up and taken out of sod are often the starting points, the chairman suggests.

The Agricultural Conservation Program was set up to help farmers meet these conservation problems wherever they are on the farm, says the chairman. Whatever the problem, whether erosion is just getting started or already at a serious stage, there are practices to meet the most serious problems in every farming area.

Mentioning a few erosion controlling practices, the chairman points out that farming on the contour helps in many instances on hilly or sloping land. Where terraces are needed, grassed waterway outlets should be provided so that the terrace doesn't become an erosion hazard instead of control.

In many cases grass and cover crops are about the only means of keeping land from washing away. Sod crops in rotation help. But whatever the problem the big think is to catch erosion before it gets to the gully stage. The chairman urges farmers to check their conservation problems now with the county agricultural conservation committee to take full advantage of the program for fall and winter practices.

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WHEAT LOANS PROTECT FARM PRICE - Price supports under current agricultural laws merely give the farmer a "break" not a "bonus", C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, said today.

Pointing out that legislation directs price-support programs at a certain percentage of "parity", Mr. Hemphill said that "parity" is a measure of the relationship between farmers' income and outgo, and rises or falls according to the relative positions of the prices farmers pay out and receive.

Price supports on the 1948 crop of wheat, explained Mr. Hemphill, are directed to be set at 90 percent of parity, which averages nationally about \$2 a bushel.

In the 10 years since the loan program was started, according to a Department of Agriculture survey, wheat prices have ^{averaged} below the loan in 3 years, and then only 3 or 4 cents. In one of these years, 1938-39, the program was new and slow in getting started and only 86 million bushels were pledged for loans. In 1941-42 and 1942-43, prices were depressed as exports were restricted by war and the carry-over reached all-time high levels. The largest amount ever put under loans was in 1942-43, when the total reached more than 408 million bushels.

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STORAGE AND ORDERLY MARKETING - The record crop of grain with corn alone estimated at more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ billion bushels, emphasizes the need for storage as a means to orderly marketing, says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee.

He points out that with a grain crop of this size unless farmers are able to provide storage -- most of it on the farm -- in some areas it cannot be marketed in an orderly manner, and losses are inevitable.

If, however, farmers are able to provide storage, it can be handled in an orderly manner. Loans and purchasing agreements which protect the farmer's price at 90 percent of parity are the key to orderly marketing.

The Production and Marketing Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture through its farmer-elected committees is working with farmers, dealers and contractors to do all that can be done to provide enough storage to get this record crop under cover to prevent loss.

Farmers of _____ county who have grain storage problems should see a member of the county agricultural conservation committee or call at the county agricultural conservation office located at _____.

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GETTING THE JOB DONE - How the Agricultural Conservation Program is getting the conservation job done for the country was outlined this week by _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee. He lists some important facts about the program as follows:

(1) The program is set up in every agricultural county in the United States and it is in operation in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

(2) It is administered by locally elected farmer committees. There are 3,029 such county committees with 9,087 county committeemen. At the community level there are 91,598 community committeemen.

(3) These committeemen are in contact with the more than 5 million farmers in the country. Farmers themselves, they are familiar with local practical farming operations. Through training in the ACProgram they have learned the practical application of approved conservation practices and how to fit them to local and individual farm needs.

(4) Through assistance to individual farmers in the form of materials, services and financial aid, farmers are able to get needed conservation work done. Costly delays are avoided.

(5) By helping farmers get the needed conservation work done, consumers are helping -- in part at least -- to protect the Nation's most valuable natural resources -- soil and water.

(6) The Nation is getting needed conservation work done at much less than it will cost when the damage is greater. Some of the problems are being corrected which soon would be beyond correcting if let go.

(7) The findings of experiment and research stations are put to practical use in conserving soil in a relatively short time and on a wide front. Technical committees made up of specialists and leaders of the various agencies having to do with soil and water conservation, help to develop each year's Agricultural Conservation Program.

(8) The financial assistance to farmers acts as a leaven in getting additional and most needed conservation work done. Much of it would not be done without that assistance.

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MEAT PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES - Livestock production goals, established by the Department of Agriculture with the help of State U.S.D.A. Councils, take into consideration the relation between current slaughter and future supplies, as well as the realistic need for gearing such goals to the feed situation, says C. V. Hemphill chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

Discussing the current livestock supply situation, Mr. Hemphill said that goals for slaughter of cattle and calves were set at 32 million head for 1948, or about 4 million less than actual slaughter in 1947. This lower/slaughter goal was necessary

to put a brake on further reduction in cattle numbers and thus insure a greater beef production in future years.

With the U. S. population continuing to increase at the rate of about a million a year, there is future danger in cutting the number of animal breeding stock too low. And, even though the goal sought a smaller slaughter in 1948 than in 1947, the goal still would mean a further small decrease in the number of cattle on farms.

Because of the smaller available feed supplies, the goal for the 1948 spring pig crop was slightly smaller than a year earlier and farmers met this goal. The 1948 spring pig crop is now estimated at only 3 percent less than the 1947 crop.

The 1948 fall pig goal calls for an increase of at least 10 percent in the number of pigs raised over the number raised last fall. Feed supplies during the coming year are expected to set new records. But an important point to remember is -- when hogs are held back for breeding, to that extent are available meat supplies reduced.

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